

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee
Minutes for the meeting of Monday July 1, 2002

Voting members present: Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Ted Packard, Christopher Tonkin, Scott Smith and Stephan Miller.

Others present: Tom Allen David White, Zach Orlov, and Paul Somethingorother.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jack Johnson, at 7:34.

We began by introducing ourselves and voting to accept last month's minutes.

Recent Events

Review of Mass. Central Rail Trail Conference. Ron and Jack attended the conference which was sponsored by the Rails to Trails Conservancy and MassBike. The event was staged to drum up support for building additional bike trails in Massachusetts. Three hundred and fifty people attended including many politicians and candidates. The event was judged to be a great success.

Minuteman Bikeway Extension. This extension runs from the end of the Minuteman at Alewife to Blanchard Street in Belmont and in the other direction via the linear park in Somerville. The project is at the 25% design phase.

New bikerack request. Fitness First in the Center has requested that the town install a rack in front of the gym on the sidewalk. The rack is to be purchased by Fitness First. The request has been seen slow going through the planning office because of difficulties with the site. The sidewalk in front of the gym is narrow and a conventional rack will not fit. Jack suggested that they use posts and rings that take up less space. Joey Glushco and the planning department are looking into the matter.

ABAC's gift to the Arlington Library. Most of the books and maps ABAC is donating to the Library have been purchased. There is still \$1000 of the \$2000 to be spent. We will find out whether we will need to make more suggestions.

Bikeway repaving. No work has been done in more than a week and the DPW was unavailable for comment. Stephan asked about fixing eroded areas in the heights, behind the High School and near the pond. Christopher asked if Lexington and Bedford were planning to repave their sections. Some erosion will be fixed in the Heights and behind the High School but the embankment near the pond will have to wait. Lexington and Bedford will not be repaving. The trail is not as corrugated in those towns.

Signpost replacement. Stephan, Jack and Paulo did a survey of the signs present on the Bike Path. They recommend replacement of missing street signs and addition of occasional Keep Right signs. They also suggested the consolidation of multiple signs on a single post and to move some of the existing posts farther off the path.

Improvements for Bow Street ramp. Tom showed us a site plan for the new Bow St. ramp onto the Bike Path. Cathy Johnson attended a portion of the meeting to explain the issues at the site. The Security Fence gate swings over the ramp and constitutes an encroachment. In addition, Security Fence's property line is several feet behind the current fence along the path. Scott and others made specific suggestions about how the design could be improved. We will work more on this issue.

Complaints about gravel ramp to Gold's Gym. David told us that Gold's Gym put the gravel on the ramp. The town encouraged the installation of the ramp to provide another access point to the Heights. Gold's has been told that the gravel is dangerous because it washes onto the path and is therefore the wrong material for that location. The Conservation Commission also wants the gravel removed and the ramp paved in such a way that limits water running onto the path from the adjacent parking lot. The DPW has jurisdiction so Jack and Ron will contact them. Ted mentioned that he thinks that the ramp is too close to the Park Ave. overpass and that sight lines are poor. David told us that the opening will probably remain where it is and that the Con. Comm. is also perusing the matter with the DPW.

Mass. Ave. corridor updates. Scott told us that nothing major has changed since our last meeting. The next public meeting will be on July 10 at the Fox Branch Library. Scott is assembling a taskforce to of citizens to work on the project over the summer and into the fall. Major concerns are pedestrian safety and traffic cutting through neighborhoods. There is some opposition to bike lanes from the East Arlington business community. They are primarily worried about delivery parking.

There is a lot of interest from citizens and the Selectmen about traffic calming. DPW is researching the options. For example Russel street could use parking on opposite sides on different parts of the street and/or bulbouts. They are also considering speed humps (as opposed to speed bumps).

Event Planning. Town Day is September 14 this year. Ted suggested that we do some kind of demonstration for people who wish to commute on bicycles. The demo would include both equipment and techniques. We decided to sell bicycle maps again and will distribute the new Minuteman Bike Path brochures plus a summary of the bicycle related activities going on in the area. Christopher suggested that we invite Bryce Nesbitt to talk on bike path advocacy. Tom reminded us that this will be the 10th anniversary of the construction of the Bike Path and would some related activity be appropriate?

Ron's idea was to have a Bike Path related festival separate from Town Day to celebrate. The celebration could include an outdoor activities and an indoor reception. We could have a simultaneous party at all three currently open visitor centers along the path (Jefferson-Cutter House, Lexington Green and Depot Square).

There will be no meeting in August

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm.